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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
PESIN, BORIS M	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2174	

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	**Application No.**	**Applicant(s)**
	09/878,577	MONBARON, JEAN-JACQUES
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Boris Pesin	2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *22 May 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *20-23* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-19 and 24-27* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This communication is responsive to the after final amendment filed 05/22/2006.

Upon an interview with the Applicant, it was determined that the Examiner wrongly did not enter the after final amendment. However upon further consideration, it was determined that the allowability of claims 24-27 should be withdrawn so the Examiner is issuing a new Final rejection in response the amendment filed 9/28/2005.

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, and 19 are independent claims. In the amendment filed 9/28/2005, Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, and 19 were amended and claims 24-27 were added as new. This action is made Final.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-19, and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Excel (Screen Shots) in view of Kelman et al. (US 6850896).

In regards to claim 1, Excel teaches a method of navigating a business application software using a computer system having a central processing unit, a display device coupled to said central processing unit, and a transactional database comprising a main database containing records of business transactions entered on a

line item basis according to and including the dimensions of Items, People, Actions and Time, said method comprising (See Figure 1): simultaneously displaying on said display device via a graphical user interface four symbols that separately identify the categories of Items, People, Actions, and Results (See Figure 2, Element 1); accessing through selection of any of said symbol information contained in said database which is in the category represented by the selected symbol(See Figure 2, Element 1); and displaying the accessed information via a screen display specific to the selected symbol (See Figure 2, Element 1). Microsoft Excel does not specifically teach showing icons on said display device. Kelman teaches icons in a database that enable switching between different screens of information (Figure 2, "Compare, Research, Etc...."). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Microsoft Excel with the teachings of Kelman and include icons to carry out switching of different screens within an application with the motivation to provide the user with a more identifiable screen description.

In regards to claim 2, Microsoft Excel and Kelman teach all the limitations of claim 1. Excel further teaches a method wherein said icons are displayed on a continuous basis under control of a graphical user interface (See Figures 1-5).

In regards to claim 3, Microsoft Excel and Kelman teach all the limitations of claim 1. Excel further teaches a method comprising accessing and/or altering through the Items icon any information contained in said database which is related to selected physical or non- physical elements, including but not limited to products, parts, assets, services and other physical or non-physical resources (See Figure 2).

In regards to claim 4, Microsoft Excel and Kelman teach all the limitations of claim 1. Excel further teaches a method a method comprising accessing and/or altering through the People icon any information contained in said database which is related to real people, including but not limited to customers, prospects, vendors, suppliers, employees, contractors, or transportation agents (See Figure 3).

In regards to claim 5, Microsoft Excel and Kelman teach all the limitations of claim 1. Excel further teaches a method a method comprising accessing and/or altering through the Actions icon any information contained in said transactional database which is related to activities performed within an organization or between the organization and its external business partners, including but not limited to quotations, orders, picks, invoices, credit checks, and return authorizations (See Figure 3).

In regards to claim 6, Microsoft Excel and Kelman teach all the limitations of claim 1. Excel further teaches a method comprising accessing through the Results icon summaries of data contained in said transactional database, whether in graphical, tabular or text form, whether on screen, on a file, or in print (See Figure 5).

Claim 7 is in the same context as claim 1; therefore it is rejected under similar rationale.

In regards to claim 8, Excel teaches an information handling apparatus comprising: a computer system having a central processing unit and a display device coupled to said central processing unit; a transactional database containing records of business transactions recorded on a line item basis according to an including data in at least the following dimensions: items, people, actions and time (See Figure 1); and a

graphical user interface coupled to said computer system comprising (a) means for causing said display device to display four symbols that separately identify the dimensions of items, people, actions and results (See Figure 2, Element 1), (b) means for accessing through selection of any one of said symbols data contained in said database (See Figure 2, Element 1), and (c) means for managing the accessed data according to algorithms contained in the software and workflows defined by the user (See Figure 5). Microsoft Excel does not specifically teach showing icons on said display device. Kelman teaches icons in a database that enable switching between different screens of information (Figure 2, "Compare, Research, Etc...."). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Microsoft Excel with the teachings of Kelman and include icons to carry out switching of different screens within an application with the motivation to provide the user with a more identifiable screen description.

In regards to claim 9, Excel teaches an information handling apparatus comprising: a computer system having a central processing unit and a display device coupled to said central processing unit (inherent in Excel); a transactional database containing records of business transactions recorded, on a line item basis, data according to and including at least the following dimensions; items, people, actions and time (See Figure 1); and a graphical user interface coupled to said computer system comprising (a) means for causing said display device to display symbols representing the dimensions of items, people, actions and results (See Figure 2), and (b) means operative through selection of any of said symbols for accessing data contained in said

database and managing the accessed data according to specific workflows related to the dimension represented by said any selected symbol (See Figure 4). Microsoft Excel does not specifically teach showing icons on said display device. Kelman teaches icons in a database that enable switching between different screens of information (Figure 2, "Compare, Research, Etc...."). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Microsoft Excel with the teachings of Kelman and include icons to carry out switching of different screens within an application with the motivation to provide the user with a more identifiable screen description.

In regards to claim 10, Excel teaches an information handling apparatus comprising; a central processing unit (inherent in Excel); a display device coupled to said central processing unit (inherent in Excel); a transactional data base coupled to said central processing unit for storing business transaction data relating to and including at least items, people, actions and time on a line item basis (See Figure 1); software defining a scheme for managing and processing said data and for generating results according to selected workflows (Figure 5); and a graphical user interface characterized by (1) means for causing said displace device to display separate symbols as metaphors for the following categories: items, people, actions (Figure 2) and results, means responsive to selection of any of said symbols for generating a separate screen for use in accessing and processing data on the basis of the category of items, people, actions or results represented by the selected symbol(Figure 2), and (2) means for causing said software to display data according to said scheme on the basis of items, people, actions or results (Figure 2, Element 1). Microsoft Excel does not

specifically teach showing icons on said display device. Kelman teaches icons in a database that enable switching between different screens of information (Figure 2, "Compare, Research, Etc...."). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Microsoft Excel with the teachings of Kelman and include icons to carry out switching of different screens within an application with the motivation to provide the user with a more identifiable screen description.

In regards to claim 11, Excel teaches an information handling apparatus comprising: a computer system having a central processing unit and a display device coupled to said central processing unit (inherent in Excel); a transactional database containing business data that has been recorded on a line item basis and includes all the following dimensions: items, people, actions and time (Figure 1); and a graphical user interface coupled to said computer system comprising (a) means for causing said display device to display symbols representing the categories of items, people, actions and results (Figure 2), and (b) means responsive to selection of any of said symbols for accessing said business data according to the category of items, people, actions or results identified by the selected icon (Figures 2-5), and; (c) means responsive to selection of any of said symbol for accessing specific software and managing and processing data contained in said database according to said accessed specific software (Figure 2). Microsoft Excel does not specifically teach showing icons on said display device. Kelman teaches icons in a database that enable switching between different screens of information (Figure 2, "Compare, Research, Etc...."). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine

Microsoft Excel with the teachings of Kelman and include icons to carry out switching of different screens within an application with the motivation to provide the user with a more identifiable screen description.

In regards to claim 12, Microsoft Excel and Kelman teach all the limitations of claim 11. Excel further teaches an information handling apparatus wherein said specific software defines a workflow (See Figure 5).

In regards to claim 13, Microsoft Excel and Kelman teach all the limitations of claim 12. Excel further teaches an information handling apparatus wherein said specific software comprises a first database table that defines types of actions to be executed by said computer system and a second database table that defines possible links between said action types (See Figures 1-5).

In regards to claim 14, Microsoft Excel and Kelman teach all the limitations of claim 13. Excel further teaches an information handling apparatus wherein said specific software comprises a third database table that contains a record of links between actions that have been executed or are planned for execution (See Figures 1-5).

In regards to claim 15, Excel teaches an information handling apparatus comprising: a computer system having a central processing unit and a display device coupled to said central processing unit (inherent in Excel); a transactional database comprising a central database containing, on a line item basis, data in at least the following dimensions: items, people, actions and time (See Figure 1); and a graphical user interface coupled to said computer system comprising (a) means for causing said display device to display symbols representing items, people, actions and results (See

Figure 2), and (b) software defining a schema for managing data contained in said database according to specific workflows accessed by selection of one of said icons (See Figure 5). Microsoft Excel does not specifically teach showing icons on said display device. Kelman teaches icons in a database that enable switching between different screens of information (Figure 2, "Compare, Research, Etc...."). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Microsoft Excel with the teachings of Kelman and include icons to carry out switching of different screens within an application with the motivation to provide the user with a more identifiable screen description.

In regards to claim 16, Excel teaches an a graphical user interface for accessing data of business transactions stored in a computer system that includes a display device, said data being stored on a line item basis in a transactional database according to the dimensions of items, people, actions and time (Figure 1), said interface comprising (a) means for causing said display device to display symbols representing the dimensions of items, people, actions and results (See Figure 2), (b) means for accessing through selection of any one of said symbols data contained in said transactional database (See Figure 2), and (c) means for managing the accessed data (See Figure 2). Microsoft Excel does not specifically teach showing icons on said display device. Kelman teaches icons in a database that enable switching between different screens of information (Figure 2, "Compare, Research, Etc...."). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Microsoft Excel with the teachings of Kelman and include icons to carry out switching of

different screens within an application with the motivation to provide the user with a more identifiable screen description.

In regards to claim 17, Microsoft Excel and Kelman teach all the limitations of claim 16. Excel further teaches a graphical user interface wherein said graphical user interface is adapted to provide four separate screens, one each for Items, People, Actions and Results, with each of said screens displaying all of said icons (See Figures 1-5).

In regards to claim 18, Microsoft Excel and Kelman teach all the limitations of claim 17. Excel further teaches a graphical user interface according to claim 17 wherein each of said separate screens includes one or more tabs or buttons that represent options available to the user with respect to accessing or processing data (See Figures 1-5).

In regards to claim 19, Microsoft Excel teaches an information handling apparatus comprising: a computer system having a central processing unit and a display device coupled to said central processing unit (inherent in Excel); a transactional database comprising a central database containing, on a line item basis, data in at least the following dimensions: items, people, actions and time (See Figure 1); a schema involving user-defined actions and links between actions for managing data contained in said database according to specific workflows (See Figure 5); and a graphical user interface coupled to said computer system comprising means for causing said display device to display a screen containing symbols representing the dimensions of items, people, actions, and results (See Figures 2-5), and means operative through selection

of any of said symbols for accessing data contained in said database and managing the accessed data according to said user defined actions and said links between actions (See Figures 2-5). Microsoft Excel does not specifically teach showing icons on said display device. Kelman teaches icons in a database that enable switching between different screens of information (Figure 2, "Compare, Research, Etc...."). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Microsoft Excel with the teachings of Kelman and include icons to carry out switching of different screens within an application with the motivation to provide the user with a more identifiable screen description.

In regards to claim 24, Microsoft Excel and Kelman teach a method according to claim 1 wherein said transactional database further includes a plurality of secondary databases including an Items database containing records of information about Items (Microsoft Excel, Figure 2, Element 1), a People database containing records of information about people (Microsoft Excel, Figure 2), an Actions database containing records of types of available actions (Microsoft Excel, Figure 4), and a Time database containing records relating to time (Microsoft Excel, Figure 1, Column D) said four icons are displayed on a start-up screen (Microsoft Excel, Figures 1-5), and further wherein information contained in said main database is accessed by accessing additional Items, People, Actions, and Results screens via said icons, with each of said Items, People and Actions screens having means for permitting input and changed of information in said database and tabs for accessing others of said additional screens(Microsoft Excel, Figures 1-5).

In regards to claim 25, Microsoft Excel and Kelman teach a method according to claim 24 wherein said information contained in said main database is accessed via a link with one of said secondary databases additional databases, and said secondary databases are accessed by said Items, People, Actions and Results Screens (Microsoft Excel, Figures 1-5, the main database data is populated with information from all of the other databases).

Claims 26 and 27 are similar in scope to claim 24; therefore they are rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 09/28/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues that Excel does not teach icons. The Examiner agrees that Excel does not teach icons, however the combination of Excel and Kelman teaches icons.

Furthermore the Applicant argues that there is no indication that the information contained in Fig. 1 is recorded in a transactional database on a line item basis according to the dimensions of Items, People, Actions, and Time. The Examiner disagrees. Excel allows you to enter data in the cells of the spreadsheet. The rows (or lines) are filled however the user desires. Figures 2-5 illustrate Items, People, Actions and Time.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Boris Pesin whose telephone number is (571) 272-4070. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday except every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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